

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In Re: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

12-md-02311  
Honorable Marianne O. Battani  
Hon. Mona Majzoub

In re: SWITCHES

2:13-cv-01302-MOB-MKM

THIS RELATES TO:

DEALERSHIP CONSOLIDATED  
AMENDED  
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

ALL DEALERSHIP ACTIONS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs Martens Cars of Washington, Inc. (“Plaintiff Martens”), Landers Auto Group No. 1, Inc., d/b/a Landers Toyota (“Plaintiff Landers”), Hammett Motor Company, Inc. (“Plaintiff Hammett”), Superstore Automotive, Inc. (“Plaintiff Superstore”), Lee Pontiac-Oldsmobile-GMC Truck, Inc. (“Plaintiff Lee”), V.I.P. Motor Cars Ltd. (“Plaintiff V.I.P.”), Desert European Motorcars, Ltd. (“Plaintiff Desert”), Dale Martens Nissan Subaru, Inc. (“Plaintiff Dale Martens”), Green Team of Clay Center Inc. (“Plaintiff Green Team”), McGrath Automotive Group, Inc. (“Plaintiff McGrath”), Table Rock Automotive, Inc., d/b/a Todd Archer Hyundai (“Plaintiff Table Rock”), Archer-Perdue, Inc., d/b/a/ Archer-Perdue Suzuki (“Plaintiff Archer-Perdue”), Bonneville and Son, Inc. (“Plaintiff Bonneville”), Holzhauer Auto and Truck Sales, Inc. (“Plaintiff Holzhauer”), Pitre, Inc., d/b/a/ Pitre Buick GMC (“Plaintiff Pitre”), Patsy Lou Chevrolet, Inc. (“Plaintiff Patsy Lou”), John Greene Chrysler Dodge Jeep, LLC (“Plaintiff John Greene”), SLT Group II, Inc., d/b/a Planet Nissan Subaru of Flagstaff (“Plaintiff Planet Nissan”), Herb Hallman Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a/ Champion Chevrolet (“Plaintiff Champion”), Charles Daher’s Commonwealth Motors, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Chevrolet, Commonwealth Kia,

Commonwealth Honda (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors”), Commonwealth Volkswagen, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Volkswagen (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen”), Commonwealth Nissan, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Nissan (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan”), Ramey Motors, Inc. (“Plaintiff Ramey”), Thornhill Superstore, Inc., d/b/a Thornhill GM Superstore (“Plaintiff Thornhill”), Dave Heather Corporation, d/b/a Lakeland Toyota Honda Mazda Subaru (“Plaintiff Lakeland”), Central Salt Lake Valley GMC Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Salt Lake Valley Buick GMC (“Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley”), Capitol Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc. (“Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet”), Capitol Dealerships, Inc., d/b/a Capitol Toyota (“Plaintiff Capitol Toyota”), Beck Motors, Inc. (“Plaintiff Beck”), Stranger Investments d/b/a Stephen Wade Toyota (“Plaintiff Wade”), John O’Neil Johnson Toyota, LLC (“Plaintiff Johnson”), Hartley Buick GMC Truck, Inc. (“Plaintiff Hartley”), Lee Oldsmobile-Cadillac, Inc. d/b/a Lee Honda (“Plaintiff Lee Honda”), Lee Auto Malls-Topsham, Inc. d/b/a Lee Toyota of Topsham (“Plaintiff Topsham”), Landers of Hazelwood, LLC d/b/a Landers Toyota of Hazelwood (“Plaintiff Hazelwood”), Cannon Chevrolet – Oldsmobile – Cadillac – Nissan, Inc. (“Plaintiff Cannon”), Cannon Nissan of Jackson, LLC (“Plaintiff Cannon Nissan”), Hudson Charleston Acquisition, LLC d/b/a Hudson Nissan (“Plaintiff Hudson Nissan”), Shearer Automotive Enterprises III, Inc. (“Plaintiff Shearer”), Apex Motor Corporation (“Plaintiff Apex”), HC Acquisition, LLC d/b/a Toyota of Bristol (“Plaintiff Bristol Toyota”), Hodges Imported Cars, Inc. d/b/a Hodges Subaru (“Plaintiff Hodges”), Scotland Car Yard Enterprises d/b/a San Rafael Mitsubishi (“Plaintiff San Rafael”), Empire Nissan of Santa Rosa, LLC (“Plaintiff Empire Nissan”), Panama City Automotive Group, Inc. d/b/a John Lee Nissan (“Plaintiff John Lee”)(collectively “Plaintiffs”), file this Consolidated Class Complaint on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Classes” as defined below).

Plaintiffs bring this class action for damages, injunctive relief, and other relief pursuant to federal antitrust laws and state antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws, demand a trial by jury, and allege as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This lawsuit is brought as a proposed class action against Defendants Panasonic Corporation and Panasonic Corporation of North America (together, the “Panasonic Defendants”), Mitsuba Corporation, American Mitsuba Corporation (together, the “Mitsuba Defendants” or “Mitsuba”), Tokai Rika, Co., Ltd., TRAM, Inc. d/b/a/ Tokai Rika U.S.A. Inc. (together, the “Tokai Defendants” or “Tokai”) (collectively, “Defendants”) and unnamed co-conspirators, manufacturers, and/or suppliers of Switches (defined below) for engaging in a long-running conspiracy to unlawfully fix, artificially raise, maintain, and/or stabilize prices, rig bids for, and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Switches.

2. Plaintiffs seek to represent all automobile dealers who, during the period from and including January 1, 2000 through the present (the “Class Period”), purchased vehicles containing one or more Switch(es) as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Switch(es) as replacement parts, which were manufactured or sold by the Defendants, any current or former subsidiary of the Defendants or any co-conspirator of the Defendants.

3. Switches include one or more of the following: steering wheel switches, turn switches, wiper switches, combination switches, and door courtesy switches.

4. The driver of a vehicle operates Switches to control various functions within the vehicle as explained in more detail in ¶ 114.

5. The Defendants manufacture, market, and sell Switches throughout and into the United States. The Defendants and other co-conspirators (as yet unknown) agreed, combined,

and conspired to fix, raise, maintain, and/or stabilize prices and allocate market shares for Switches.

6. The U.S. Department of Justice's ("DOJ") Antitrust Division is currently conducting a broad criminal investigation into illegal price fixing and bid rigging in the automotive parts industry. As part of its criminal investigation, the DOJ is seeking information about unlawful anticompetitive conduct in the market for a number of different but related automotive parts, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") has participated in raids, pursuant to search warrants, carried out in the offices of a number of major competitors in the automotive parts industry. The automotive parts investigation is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued, both in terms of its scope and the potential volume of commerce affected by the alleged illegal conduct. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry has yielded, as of the filing of this Complaint, 1.6 billion in criminal fines, already surpassing the total amount in criminal fines obtained by the DOJ's Antitrust Division for all of last fiscal year. The European Commission Competition Authority ("EC") has also conducted dawn raids at the European offices of several automotive parts manufacturers.

7. On October 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Defendant Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$17.7 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of heater control panels ("HCPs") installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere, and a Tokai Rika executive's related obstruction of the government's investigation.

8. In its plea agreement, Tokai Rika agreed to "cooperate fully and truthfully with . . . the current federal investigation of violations of federal antitrust and related criminal laws

involving the manufacture or sale of HCPs or steering wheel switches . . . .” Tokai Rika’s guilty plea further provides that in exchange for its cooperation in the DOJ’s automotive parts investigation, including with respect to steering wheel switches, the DOJ will refrain from criminally prosecuting Tokai Rika for price-fixing certain automotive parts, including steering wheel switches.

9. On July 18, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Panasonic Corporation had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$45.8 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive parts, including Switches, installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

10. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Mitsuba Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$135 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of certain automotive parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere. Defendant Mitsuba Corporation’s guilty plea defines automotive parts to include, among other parts, automotive electric switches.

11. The Defendants and their co-conspirators participated in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, Switches sold to automobile manufacturers and others in the United States. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by the Defendants and their co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, and state antitrust, unfair competition and consumer protection laws.

12. As a direct result of the anti-competitive and unlawful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the Classes (as defined below) paid artificially inflated prices for Switches during the Class Period and have thereby suffered antitrust injury to their business or property.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

13. Plaintiffs bring this action under Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26) to secure equitable and injunctive relief against the Defendants for violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1). Plaintiffs also assert claims for actual and exemplary damages pursuant to state antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws and the common law of unjust enrichment and seek to obtain restitution, recover damages, and secure other relief against the Defendants for violations of those state laws. Plaintiffs and the Classes also seek attorneys' fees, costs, and other expenses under federal and state law.

14. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26), Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d) and 1367 in that: (i) this is a class action in which the matter or controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and in which some members of the proposed Classes are citizens of a state different from the Defendants and (ii) Plaintiffs' state law claims form part of the same case or controversy as their federal claims under Article III of the United States Constitution.

15. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 22) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b), (c), and (d) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District, a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce discussed below has been carried out in this District, and the

Defendants reside, are licensed to do business in, are doing business in, had agents in, or are found or transact business in this District.

16. This Court has *in personam* jurisdiction over the Defendants because the Defendants, either directly or through the ownership and/or control of their subsidiaries, *inter alia*: (a) transacted business in the United States, including in this District; (b) directly or indirectly sold or marketed substantial quantities of Switches throughout the United States that were specifically designed for vehicles that were intended to be sold in the United States, including in this district; (c) had substantial aggregate contacts with the United States as a whole, including in this District; or (d) engaged in an illegal price-fixing conspiracy that was directed at, and had a direct, substantial, reasonably foreseeable and intended effect of causing injury to the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District and/or (e) engaged in actions in furtherance of an illegal conspiracy in this district either itself or through its co-conspirators. The Defendants also conduct business throughout the United States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the United States.

17. The Defendants engaged in conduct both inside and outside of the United States that caused direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable and intended anticompetitive effects upon interstate commerce within the United States and import commerce into the United States.

18. The activities of the Defendants and their co-conspirators were within the flow of, were intended to, and did have, a substantial effect on interstate commerce of the United States. The Defendants' products are sold in the flow of interstate commerce.

19. Switches manufactured abroad by the Defendants and sold for use in automobiles in the United States are goods brought into the United States for sale, and therefore

constitute import commerce. To the extent any of Switches are purchased in the United States, and such Switches do not constitute import commerce, the Defendants' unlawful activities with respect thereto, as more fully alleged herein during the Class Period, had, and continue to have, a direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable effect on United States commerce. The anticompetitive conduct, and its effect on United States commerce described herein, proximately caused antitrust injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes in the United States.

20. By reason of the unlawful activities hereinafter alleged, the Defendants substantially affected commerce throughout the United States, causing injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes. The Defendants, directly and through their agents, engaged in activities affecting all states, to fix, raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Switches, which conspiracy unreasonably restrained trade and adversely affected the market for Switches.

21. The Defendants' conspiracy and wrongdoing described herein adversely affected automobile dealers in the United States.

## **PARTIES**

### **Plaintiffs**

22. Plaintiff Hammett is a Mississippi corporation with its principal place of business in Durant, Mississippi. Plaintiff Hammett is an authorized Ford dealer who bought Ford-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.



23. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hammett purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hammett also purchased Switches, manufactured by Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Hammett purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Mississippi. Plaintiff Hammett has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

24. Plaintiff Landers is an Arkansas corporation with its principal place of business in Little Rock, Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers is an authorized Toyota dealer who bought Toyota-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

25. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Landers purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Landers also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Landers purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Arkansas during the Class Period.

26. Plaintiff Superstore is a Minnesota company, with its principal place of business in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Plaintiff Superstore is an authorized Buick/GMC dealer, doing business under the name White Bear Lake Superstore. Plaintiff Superstore bought Buick- and GMC-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

27. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Superstore purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Superstore also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Superstore purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Minnesota. Plaintiff Superstore has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Minnesota during the Class Period.

28. Plaintiff Lee is a Florida corporation, with its principal place of business in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Plaintiff Lee is presently an authorized GMC dealer. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee was also an authorized Pontiac, Oldsmobile and Jeep dealer. Plaintiff Lee buys GMC-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators. During the Class Period, Plaintiff bought Pontiac-, Oldsmobile-, and Jeep-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

29. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lee also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Lee purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Florida. Plaintiff Lee has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Florida during the Class Period.

30. Plaintiff V.I.P. is a California company with its principal place of business in Palm Springs, California. Plaintiff VIP is an authorized Mercedes, BMW, Infiniti, and Hyundai dealer who bought Mercedes-, BMW-, Infiniti-, and Hyundai-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

31. During the Class Period, Plaintiff V.I.P. purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff V.I.P. also purchased Switches, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff V.I.P. purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in California. Plaintiff V.I.P. has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

32. Plaintiff Desert is a California company, with its principal place of business in Rancho Mirage, California. Plaintiff Desert is an authorized Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin, Maserati, Porsche, Jaguar, Land Rover, Audi, Lotus, and Spyker dealer who bought Rolls Royce-, Bentley-, Aston Martin-, Maserati-, Porsche-, Jaguar-, Land Rover-, Audi-, Lotus-, and Spyker-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

33. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Desert purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Desert also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Desert purchased and received

both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in California. Plaintiff Desert has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

34. Plaintiff Dale Martens was a Kansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Lawrence, Kansas during the Class Period. Plaintiff Dale Martens was an authorized Nissan and Subaru dealer during the Class Period, who, during the Class Period, bought Nissan- and Subaru-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

35. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Dale Martens purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Dale Martens also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Dale Martens purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Kansas. Plaintiff Dale Martens has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Kansas during the Class Period.

36. Plaintiff Green Team is a Kansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Clay Center, Kansas. Plaintiff Green Team is an authorized Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Jeep-, Dodge-, and Ram-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

37. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Green Team purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Green

Team also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Green Team purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Kansas. Plaintiff Green Team has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Kansas during the Class Period.

38. Plaintiff McGrath is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Plaintiff McGrath is an authorized Buick, GMC, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Kia, and Cadillac dealer, who bought Buick-, GMC-, Chevrolet-, Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, Ram-, Kia-, and Cadillac-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

39. During the Class Period, Plaintiff McGrath purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff McGrath also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff McGrath purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Iowa. Plaintiff McGrath has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Iowa during the Class Period.

40. Plaintiff Table Rock is a Nebraska corporation, with its principal place of business in Bellevue, Nebraska. Plaintiff Table Rock is an authorized Hyundai dealer, who bought Hyundai-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

41. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Table Rock purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Table Rock also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Table Rock purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Nebraska. Plaintiff Table Rock has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nebraska during the Class Period.

42. Plaintiff Archer-Perdue is a Nebraska corporation, with its principal place of business in Omaha, Nebraska. Plaintiff Archer-Perdue is an authorized Suzuki dealer, who, during the Class Period, has bought Suzuki-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

43. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Archer-Perdue purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Archer-Perdue also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Archer-Perdue purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Nebraska. Plaintiff Archer-Perdue has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nebraska during the Class Period.

44. Plaintiff Bonneville is a New Hampshire corporation, with its principal place of business in Manchester, New Hampshire. Plaintiff Bonneville is an authorized Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, and Ram-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators,

as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

45. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Bonneville purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Bonneville also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Bonneville purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in New Hampshire. Plaintiff Bonneville has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New Hampshire during the Class Period.

46. Plaintiff Holzhauer is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Nashville, Illinois. Plaintiff Holzhauer is an authorized Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep dealer, who bought Dodge-, Chrysler-, and Jeep-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

47. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Holzhauer purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Holzhauer also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Holzhauer purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Illinois. Plaintiff Holzhauer has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Illinois during the Class Period.

48. Plaintiff Pitre is a New Mexico corporation, with its principal place of business in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Plaintiff Pitre is an authorized Buick and GMC dealer, who

bought Buick- and GMC-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

49. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Pitre purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Pitre also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Pitre purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in New Mexico. Plaintiff Pitre has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New Mexico during the Class Period.

50. Plaintiff Patsy Lou is a Michigan corporation, with its principal place of business in Flint, Michigan. Plaintiff Patsy Lou is an authorized Chevrolet dealer, who bought Chevrolet-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

51. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Patsy Lou purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Patsy Lou also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Patsy Lou purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Michigan. Plaintiff Patsy Lou has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Michigan during the Class Period.

52. Plaintiff John Greene is a North Carolina corporation, with its principal place of business in Morganton, North Carolina. Plaintiff John Greene is an authorized Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, and Ram-brand vehicles



containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

53. During the Class Period, Plaintiff John Greene purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff John Greene also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff John Greene purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in North Carolina. Plaintiff John Greene has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in North Carolina during the Class Period.

54. Plaintiff Planet Nissan is an Arizona corporation, with its principal place of business in Flagstaff, Arizona. Plaintiff Planet Nissan is an authorized Nissan and Subaru dealer, who bought Nissan- and Subaru-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

55. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Planet Nissan purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Planet Nissan also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Planet Nissan purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Arizona. Plaintiff Planet Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Arizona during the Class Period.

56. Plaintiff Champion is a Nevada corporation, with its principal place of business in Reno, Nevada. Plaintiff Champion is an authorized Chevrolet dealer, who bought Chevrolet-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

57. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Champion purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Champion also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Champion purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Nevada. Plaintiff Champion has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nevada during the Class Period.

58. Plaintiff Ramey is a West Virginia company with its principal place of business in Princeton, West Virginia. Plaintiff Ramey is an authorized Toyota, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Toyota-, Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, and Ram-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

59. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Ramey purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Ramey also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Ramey purchased and received

both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in West Virginia. Plaintiff Ramey has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in West Virginia during the Class Period.

60. Plaintiff Thornhill is a West Virginia corporation, with its principal place of business in Chapmanville, West Virginia. Plaintiff Thornhill is an authorized Chevrolet, Buick, and GMC dealer, who bought Chevrolet-, Buick-, and GMC-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

61. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Thornhill purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Thornhill also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Thornhill purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in West Virginia. Plaintiff Thornhill has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in West Virginia during the Class Period.

62. Plaintiff Lakeland is a Wisconsin corporation with its principal place of business in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Plaintiff Lakeland is an authorized Toyota, Honda, Mazda, and Subaru dealer who bought Toyota- Honda-, Mazda-, and Subaru-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

63. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lakeland purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lakeland

also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Lakeland purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Wisconsin. Plaintiff Lakeland has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Wisconsin during the Class Period.

64. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley is a Utah company, with its principal place of business in Salt Lake City, Utah. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley is an authorized Buick and GMC dealer, who bought Buick- and GMC-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

65. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Utah. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Utah during the Class Period.

66. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet is an Oregon corporation, with its principal place of business in Salem, Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet is an authorized Chevrolet, Cadillac, and Subaru dealer, who bought Chevrolet-, Cadillac-, and Subaru-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

67. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Oregon during the Class Period.

68. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota is an Oregon corporation with its principal place of business in Salem, Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

69. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Capitol Toyota purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Oregon during the Class Period.

70. Plaintiff Beck is a South Dakota corporation, with its principal place of business in Pierre, South Dakota. Plaintiff Beck is an authorized Chevrolet and Cadillac dealer, who bought Chevrolet- and Cadillac-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or

more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

71. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Beck purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Beck also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Beck purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in South Dakota. Plaintiff Beck has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in South Dakota during the Class Period.

72. Plaintiff Martens is a Maryland corporation that had its principal place of business in the District of Columbia during the Class Period. During the Class Period Plaintiff Martens was an authorized Volvo and Volkswagen dealer who sold Volvo- and Volkswagen-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

73. During the Class Period Plaintiff Martens purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Martens also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Martens purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in the District of Columbia. Plaintiff Martens has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in the District of Columbia during the Class Period.

74. Plaintiff Wade is a Utah corporation, with its principal place of business in St. George, Utah. Plaintiff Wade is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars

containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

75. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Wade purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Wade also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Wade purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Utah. Plaintiff Wade has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Utah during the Class Period.

76. Plaintiff Johnson is a Mississippi limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Meridian, Mississippi. Plaintiff Johnson is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

77. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Johnson purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Johnson also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Johnson purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Mississippi. Plaintiff Johnson has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

78. Plaintiff Hartley is a New York corporation, with its principal place of business in Jamestown, New York. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hartley has been an authorized Honda, Buick, Pontiac, and GM dealer, who bought Honda-, Buick-, Pontiac-, and GM-brand

cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

79. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hartley purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hartley also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Hartley purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in New York. Plaintiff Hartley has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New York during the Class Period.

80. Plaintiff Lee Honda is a Maine corporation, with its principal place of business in Auburn, Maine. Plaintiff Lee Honda is an authorized Honda dealer, who bought Honda-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

81. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee Honda purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lee Honda also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Lee Honda purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Maine. Plaintiff Lee Honda has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Maine during the Class Period.

82. Plaintiff Topsham is a Maine corporation, with its principal place of business in Topsham, Maine. Plaintiff Topsham is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.



83. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Topsham purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Topsham also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Topsham purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Maine. Plaintiff Topsham has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Maine during the Class Period.

84. Plaintiff Hazelwood is an Arkansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Hazelwood, Missouri. Plaintiff Hazelwood is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

85. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hazelwood purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hazelwood also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Hazelwood purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Missouri. Plaintiff Hazelwood has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Missouri during the Class Period.

86. Plaintiff Cannon is a Mississippi corporation, with its principal place of business in Greenwood, Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon is an authorized Chevrolet and Cadillac dealer, who bought Chevrolet- and Cadillac-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

87. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Cannon purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Cannon also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Cannon purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

88. Plaintiff Cannon Nissan is a Mississippi limited liability company with its principal place of business in Jackson, Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

89. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Cannon Nissan purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Cannon Nissan also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Cannon purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

90. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan is a South Carolina limited liability company with its principal place of business in North Charleston, South Carolina. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

91. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hudson Nissan purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in South Carolina. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in South Carolina during the Class Period.

92. Plaintiff Shearer is a Vermont corporation with its principal place of business in Rutland, Vermont. Plaintiff Shearer is an authorized Honda dealer, who bought Honda-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

93. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Shearer purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Shearer also purchased Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Shearer purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Vermont. Plaintiff Shearer has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in Vermont during the Class Period.

94. Plaintiff Apex is a Vermont corporation with its principal place of business in South Burlington, Vermont. Plaintiff Apex is an authorized Acura dealer, who bought Acura-brand vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

95. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Apex purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Apex also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Apex purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Vermont. Plaintiff Apex has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in Vermont during the Class Period.

96. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota is a Tennessee limited liability company with its principal place of business in Bristol, Tennessee. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota is an authorized Toyota dealer that purchased Toyota-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

97. During the Class Period Plaintiff Bristol Toyota purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota also purchased Switches, manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Tennessee. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Tennessee during the Class Period.

98. Plaintiff Hodges is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Ferndale, Michigan. Plaintiff Hodges is an authorized Subaru dealer that purchased Subaru-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

99. During the Class Period Plaintiff Hodges purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hodges also purchased Switches, manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Hodges purchased and received both the aforementioned vehicles and Switches in Michigan. Plaintiff Hodges has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Michigan during the Class Period.

100. Plaintiff San Rafael is a California corporation with its principal place of business in San Rafael, California. Plaintiff San Rafael is an authorized Mitsubishi dealer that purchased Mitsubishi-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

101. During the Class Period Plaintiff San Rafael purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff San Rafael also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff San Rafael purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in California. Plaintiff San Rafael has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

102. Plaintiff Empire Nissan is a California limited liability company with its principal place of business in Santa Rosa, California. Plaintiff Empire Nissan is an authorized Nissan dealer that purchased Nissan-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

103. During the Class Period Plaintiff Empire Nissan purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Empire Nissan also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff Empire Nissan purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in California. Plaintiff Empire Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

104. Plaintiff John Lee is a Florida corporation with its principal place of business in Panama City, Florida. Plaintiff John Lee is an authorized Nissan dealer that purchased Nissan-brand cars containing Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, as well as Switches manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

105. During the Class Period Plaintiff John Lee purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff John Lee also purchased Switches, manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators, for its repair and service business, during the Class Period. Plaintiff John Lee purchased and received both the afore-mentioned vehicles and Switches in Florida. Plaintiff John Lee has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Florida during the Class Period.

### **Defendants**

106. Defendant Panasonic Corporation is a Japanese company with its principal place of business in Osaka, Japan. Panasonic Corporation— directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled — manufactured, marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period,

including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and Class members, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and Class members.

107. Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Secaucus, New Jersey. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its Japanese parent, Panasonic Corporation. At all times during the Class Period the activities of Panasonic Corporation of North America were under the control and direction of Panasonic Corporation, which controlled its policies, sales and finances. Panasonic Corporation of North America manufactured marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and/or Class members. Specifically, Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, a registered assumed name of Panasonic Corporation of North America, is a division of Panasonic Corporation of North America and supplies automotive parts, including Switches, to the North America automotive industry. Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America is headquartered in Peachtree City, Georgia and has its main sales office in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

108. Defendant Mitsuba Corporation is a Japanese corporation with its principal place of business in Gunma, Japan. Mitsuba Corporation – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and/or Class members.

109. Defendant American Mitsuba Corporation is an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Novi, Michigan. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent, Mitsuba Corporation. American Mitsuba Corporation manufactured,

marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and/or Class members. At all times during the Class Period its activities were under the control and direction of Mitsuba Corporation, which controlled its policies, sales and finances.

110. Mitsuba Corporation and American Mitsuba Corporation are presented to the outside world as one entity. “American Mitsuba Corporation” is represented on Mitsuba’s website as “plant” and “office” for Mitsuba Corporation.

[https://www.mitsuba.co.jp/english/corp/group\\_overseas.html](https://www.mitsuba.co.jp/english/corp/group_overseas.html) and  
[http://www.americanmitsuba.com/About\\_Us.html](http://www.americanmitsuba.com/About_Us.html)

111. Defendant Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. is a Japanese company with its principal place of business in Toyota, Japan. Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this district, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and Class members.

112. Defendant TRAM, Inc. d/b/a Tokai Rika U.S.A. Inc. is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Plymouth, Michigan. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. At all times during the Class Period the activities of TRAM were under the control and direction of Tokai Rika, which controlled its policies, sales and finances. During the Class Period, Defendant TRAM, Inc. d/b/a/ Tokai Rika U.S.A. Inc. manufactured, marketed and/or sold Switches that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this district, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Switches to Plaintiffs and/or Class members.



113. Executives who have worked at Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. have also worked at TRAM, Inc. For instance, Masayuki Morita, the President and Chief Operating Officer at TRAM, Inc. previously served as a Managing Director and Director at Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. Yoshihei Iida, the former Chairman of Tokai Rika Co. Ltd., is a Board member at TRAM, Inc. Kiyoshi Kinoshita, the former Chairman of the Board and Representative Director, at Tokai Rika Co. Ltd., was also previously the President of TRAM, Inc.

114. The same year that TRAM was established in the U.S., Tokai Rika received its “QS9000 certification,” a quality standard the possession of which was required by the three major U.S. manufacturers: Ford, GM and Chrysler.

#### **AGENTS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS**

115. Each Defendant acted as the principal of or agent for the other Defendant with respect to the acts, violations, and common course of conduct alleged herein.

116. Various persons, partnerships, sole proprietors, firms, corporations and individuals not named as defendants in this lawsuit, and individuals, the identities of which are presently unknown, have participated as co-conspirators with the Defendants in the offenses alleged in this Complaint, and have performed acts and made statements in furtherance of the conspiracy or in furtherance of the anti-competitive conduct.

117. Whenever in this Complaint reference is made to any act, deed or transaction of any corporation or limited liability entity, the allegation means that the corporation or limited liability entity engaged in the act, deed or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees or representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control or transaction of the corporation’s or limited liability entity’s business or affairs.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### **A. The Switches Industry**

118. Switches include one or more of the following: (i) the steering wheel switch, which is installed in the steering wheel of a vehicle and is operated by the driver of the vehicle to control functions within the vehicle; (ii) the turn switch, which is a lever switch installed behind the steering wheel of a vehicle and is operated by the driver of the vehicle to signal a left or right turn and control hi/lo beam selection; (iii) the wiper switch, which is a lever switch installed behind the steering wheel of a vehicle and is operated by the driver of the vehicle to activate the vehicle's windshield wipers; (iv) the combination switch, which is a combination of the turn and wiper switches as one unit, sold together as a pair; and (v) the door courtesy switch, which is a switch installed in the door frame of a vehicle that activates the courtesy lamp inside the vehicle when the vehicle door opens. Examples of several Switches are shown below.



**Steering Wheel Switch**



**Combination Switch**



**Door Courtesy Switch**

119. Switches are installed by original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”) in new cars as part of the automotive manufacturing process. They are also installed in cars to replace worn out, defective or damaged Switches.

120. For new cars, the OEMs—mostly large automotive manufacturers purchase Switches directly from the Defendants.

121. When purchasing Switches, OEMs issue Requests for Quotation (“RFQs”) to automotive parts suppliers on a model-by-model basis for model specific parts. Automotive

parts suppliers submit quotations, or bids, to OEMs in response to RFQs, and the OEMs award the business to the selected automotive parts supplier for the lifespan of the model, which is usually four to six years. Typically, the bidding process for a particular model begins approximately three years prior to the start of production of a new model. OEMs procure parts for U.S.-manufactured vehicles both in Japan and the United States.

122. Suppliers, including Defendants, supply OEMs with both Switches to be installed in vehicles and Switches to be used for replacement purposes.

123. The Replacement Switches at issue in this case, made by Defendants, sold by Defendants to OEMs and sold to Plaintiffs and putative class member dealerships are the same as the Switches installed in vehicles and are made by the same manufacturer who made the Switches originally installed—that is the purpose of an OEM part, made by the OEM supplier. Such replacement parts are not the same as aftermarket parts, which are made by different manufacturers than those who manufactured the original parts. The prices of replacement Switches were inflated by the Defendants' collusion.

124. The Defendants and their co-conspirators supplied Switches to OEMs for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere. The Defendants and their co-conspirators sold Switches (a) in the United States for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, (b) abroad for export to the United States and installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, and (c) abroad for installation in vehicles manufactured in Japan for export to and sale in the United States.

125. Panasonic's main customers include Toyota, Honda, Mazda, and Nissan, among others.

126. Mitsuba's main customers include Chrysler, Honda, Subaru, Nissan and Toyota, among others.

127. Tokai's main customers include Toyota, Subaru, SAAB, Volvo, Nissan, Subaru, Isuzu, GM, Ford, Suzuki, Mazda, Isuzu Mitsubishi and Chrysler.

128. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Classes purchased Switches indirectly from the Defendants. By way of example, automobile dealers indirectly purchase Switches from the Defendants when they purchase new vehicles. Likewise, when repairing a damaged vehicle or when the vehicle's Switches are defective, Plaintiffs and other automobile dealers indirectly purchase replacement Switches from the Defendants.

**B. The Defendants Increased Prices for Switches in the Face of Declining Demand During the Class Period**

129. The Producer Price Index ("PPI") measures the average change over time in the prices received by domestic producers for their output. The chart below (see Figure 1) provides a 2004-2012 illustration of vehicle electrical and electronic equipment pricing. Because Switches are part of a vehicle's electrical and electronic equipment, the PPI for vehicle electrical and electronic equipment is a good indicator of the change over time in the prices received by domestic producers of Switches.

130. The PPI for vehicle electrical and electronic equipment indicates that the prices for Switches have increased during the Class Period.

131. Meanwhile, according to data from Bloomberg, demand for automobiles in the United States has generally decreased during the Class Period. From 2008 to 2009, at the height of the recession, the auto industry experienced a very significant 21% drop in demand. See Figure 1. The PPI for vehicle electrical and electronic equipment for the very same time period

indicates that prices for Switches remained basically flat. According to the law of supply and demand, prices during this period should have fallen, but instead they held steady.

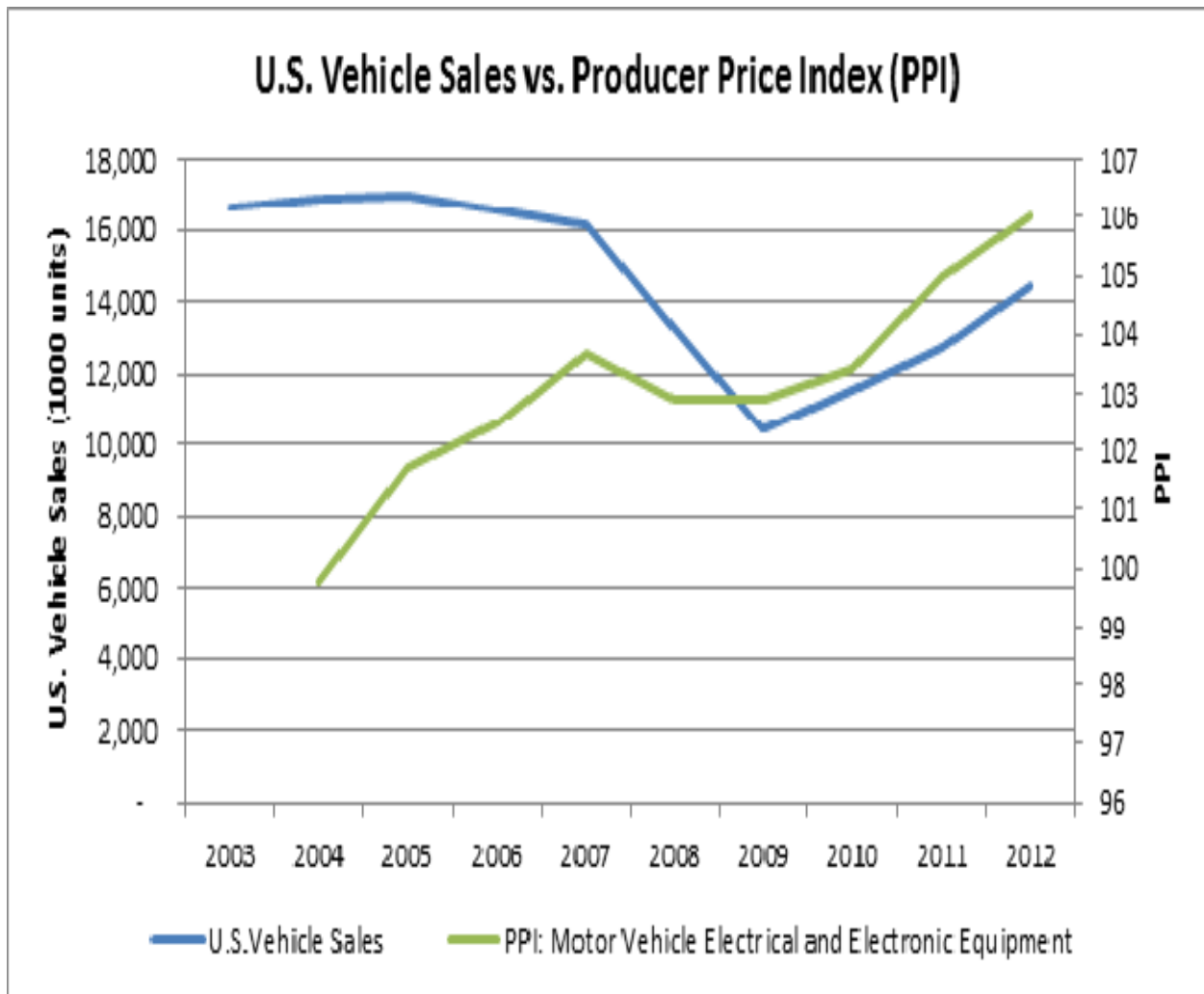


Figure 1.

132. In a competitive market, falling demand would lead to decreased prices because competitors would need to lower prices in order to attract customers and increase demand. In a market where competitors have engaged in a conspiracy to fix prices, however, competitors do not lower prices even when faced with decreasing demand. Such price decreases are unnecessary because the conspirators know that they will not lose sales to lower priced competitors.

133. The price of vehicle electrical and electronic equipment – and by extension Switches – increased during the Class Period, even during periods when demand decreased. In a competitive market, falling demand should not have resulted in steady (or rising – see the 2005-2007 period in Figure 1) prices for Switches. Such anticompetitive price increases have resulted in Plaintiffs and members of the Classes paying supracompetitive prices.

**C. The Structure and Characteristics of the Switches Market Render the Conspiracy More Plausible**

134. The structure and other characteristics of the Switches market in the United States are conducive to a price-fixing agreement, and have made collusion particularly attractive in this market. Specifically, the Switches market: (1) has high barriers to entry; and (2) has inelasticity of demand.

**1. The Switches Market Has High Barriers to Entry**

135. A collusive arrangement that raises product prices above competitive levels would, under basic economic principles, attract new entrants seeking to benefit from the supra-competitive pricing. Where, however, there are significant barriers to entry, new entrants are less likely. Thus, barriers to entry help to facilitate the formation and maintenance of a cartel.

136. There are substantial barriers that preclude, reduce, or make more difficult entry into the Switches market. A new entrant into the business would face costly and lengthy start-up costs, including multi-million dollar costs associated with manufacturing plants and equipment, energy, transportation, distribution infrastructure, and long-standing customer relationships.

137. The Defendants, for instance, own several patents related to the manufacture of Switches. These patents place a significant and costly burden on potential new entrants, who must avoid infringing on the patents when entering the market with a new product.

138. In addition, OEMs cannot change Switches suppliers randomly after a supplier is initially selected because the OEMs design the features of their vehicles so that Switches they purchase for a vehicle are then integrated with the electronics, mechanics and other features of the particular vehicle model. Thus, the design must be synergized by Switches manufacturers and OEMs. It would be difficult for a new market entrant to do so.

## **2. There is Inelasticity of Demand for Switches**

139. “Elasticity” is a term used to describe the sensitivity of supply and demand to changes in one or the other. For example, demand is said to be “inelastic” if an increase in the price of a product results in only a small decline in the quantity sold of that product, if any. In other words, customers have nowhere to turn for an alternative, cheaper product of similar quality, and so they continue to purchase the product despite a price increase.

140. For a cartel to profit from raising prices above competitive levels, demand must be relatively inelastic at competitive prices. Otherwise, increased prices would result in declining sales, revenues, and profits, as customers purchased substitute products or declined to buy altogether. Inelastic demand is a market characteristic that facilitates collusion, allowing producers to raise their prices without triggering customer substitution and lost sales revenue.

141. Demand for Switches is highly inelastic because there are no close substitutes for these products. In addition, customers must purchase Switches as an essential part of a vehicle, even if the prices are kept at a supra-competitive level.

## **D. Government Investigations**

142. A globally coordinated antitrust investigation is taking place in the United States, Europe, and Japan, aimed at suppliers of automotive parts. A Japan Fair Trade Commission (“JFTC”) official told a leading legal publication that automotive parts supplier investigations by the JFTC, DOJ and EC would continue to widen because the automotive

industry as a whole comprises many sub-industries. He characterized the investigations being conducted by the U.S., European and Japanese antitrust authorities as “large and broad,” and he declined to deny that this “would be history’s largest case.”

143. The DOJ Antitrust Division’s broad criminal investigation into illegal price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automobile parts industry has yielded more than \$1.6 billion in criminal fines, already surpassing the total amount in criminal fines obtained by the DOJ’s Antitrust Division for all of the last fiscal year.

144. On October 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Defendant Tokai Rika Co., Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$17.7 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of heater control panels (“HCPs”) installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere. Tokai Rika also agreed to plead guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the antitrust violation.

145. In its plea agreement, Tokai Rika agreed to “cooperate fully and truthfully with . . . the current federal investigation of violations of federal antitrust and related criminal laws involving the manufacture or sale of HCPs or steering wheel switches . . . .” Tokai Rika’s guilty plea further provides that in exchange for its cooperation in the DOJ’s automotive parts investigation, including with respect to steering wheel switches, the DOJ will refrain from criminally prosecuting Tokai Rika for price-fixing certain automotive parts, including steering wheel switches.



146. With respect to the obstruction of justice count, the criminal information charged as follows:

In or about February 2010, an executive of Defendant, acting on Defendant's behalf, knowingly and corruptly attempted to persuade and did persuade employees of Defendant, with intent to cause and induce them to alter, destroy, mutilate, and conceal objects with intent to impair the objects' integrity and availability for use in an official proceeding, that is the federal grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Michigan investigating, among other things, possible federal criminal antitrust violations occurring in the automotive parts industry and committed by Defendants and others, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(2)(B).

After becoming aware of the FBI search of Defendant's United States subsidiary, an executive of Defendant directed employees to delete electronic data and destroy paper documents likely to contain evidence of antitrust crimes in the United States and elsewhere. As a result, electronic data were deleted and paper documents were destroyed, including data and documents evidencing antitrust crimes in the United States and elsewhere, and some of the deleted electronic data and destroyed paper documents were non-recoverable.

147. On July 18, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Panasonic Corporation agreed to pay a \$45.8 million criminal fine and to plead guilty to a three-count criminal information charging it with participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of automotive parts, including Switches for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as September 2003 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

148. According to the Information filed July 18, 2013, Defendant Panasonic Corporation and its co-conspirators carried out the Switches conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of Switches sold in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;
- (d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling Switches in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (g) accepting payment for Switches sold in the United State and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and
- (i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including, using code names and choosing meeting places and times to avoid detection.

149. According to the Plea Agreement filed August 7, 2013, between September 2003 and February 2010, Defendant Panasonic Corporation's relevant sales of Switches to Toyota totaled approximately \$49.4 million.

150. The Plea Agreement also states that Defendant Panasonic Corporation sold steering wheel switches, turn switches, combination switches and door courtesy switches through its United States subsidiary, which is located in the Eastern District of Michigan.

151. Additionally, on September 24, 2013, the DOJ announced that a Detroit Federal grand jury returned an indictment against an executive of Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, a division of Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America, Shinichi Kotani, for his participation in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of, automotive parts, including Switches for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2004 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

152. According to the Indictment filed September 24, 2013, Shinichi Kotani and his co-conspirators carried out the Switches conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in, and directing, authorizing, or consenting to the participation of subordinate employees in, meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted in the United States and elsewhere;

- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of Switches sold in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;
- (d) approving collusive and noncompetitive prices agreed upon by subordinates during those meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) submitting bids and price quotations in the United states and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling Switches in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (g) accepting payment for Switches sold in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices; and
- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme.

153. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Mitsuba Corporation agreed to pay a \$135 million criminal fine and to plead guilty to a two-count criminal information charging it with obstruction of justice and participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to allocate the supply of, rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of certain automotive parts sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

154. According to the Information filed, Defendant Mitsuba Corporation and its co-conspirators carried out the automotive parts conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to automobile manufacturers<sup>1</sup> in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of certain automotive parts, sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested by automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling certain automotive parts to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices; and
- (g) accepting payment for certain automotive parts sold to automobile manufacturers in the United State and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the Mitsuba Information, the term “automobile manufacturers” means Honda Motor Company Ltd., Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., Nissan Motor Company Ltd., Toyota Motor Corporation and Chrysler Group, LLC, and certain of their subsidiaries, affiliates, suppliers and others.

- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and
- (i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and meeting at remote locations.

155. Defendant Mitsuba Corporation's guilty plea defines automotive parts to include, among other parts, automotive electric switches.

156. With respect to the obstruction of justice count, the criminal information charged as follows:

In or about February 2010, Executive A, acting on Defendant's behalf, knowingly altered, destroyed, mutilated, concealed, covered up, falsified and made false entries in records, documents and tangible objects with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of a department and agency of the United States, to wit, an investigation by the FBI and the United States Department of Justice of possible violations of U.S. antitrust law, in relation to and contemplation of such matter and case, and furthermore did order and command other employees of the Defendant to do so, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519.

After becoming aware of the FBI search of Defendant's co-conspirator's U.S. offices, Executive A informed certain of his subordinates employed at the U.S. subsidiary of Defendant about the FBI search, and instructed such subordinates, as well as other employees of Defendant, to locate, conceal and destroy documents and electronic files that were likely to contain evidence of antitrust crimes in the United States and elsewhere.

Executive A concealed and destroyed documents and electronic files in his possession, custody and control in the Eastern District of Michigan that were likely to contain evidence of antitrust crimes in the United States and elsewhere. Certain of Executive A's subordinates and other employees of Defendant took acts in the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere to endeavor to conceal and destroy such documents and electronic files in the possession,

custody and control of Defendant, and did conceal and destroy such documents and electronic files.

157. Mitsuba Corporation's guilty plea also alleges that

Executive B of the defendant, a senior executive of the defendant and a member of the defendant's Board of Directors, and Executive C, a senior executive of the defendant, also became aware of the search and directed certain of their subordinates and other employees that documents and electronic files in the possession, custody and control of the defendant in Japan should be concealed and destroyed. Executive B's and C's subordinates and other employees took acts to conceal and destroy such evidence, and did conceal and destroy such evidence.

**E. Guilty Pleas in Related Markets in the Automotive Industry**

158. On September 29, 2011, the DOJ announced that Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$200 million criminal fine for its role in a criminal price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracy involving the sale of automotive wire harnesses and related products to automobile manufacturers.

159. In the press release announcing the fine against Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd., Sharis A. Pozen, then the Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, stated that "[t]his cartel harmed an important industry in our nation's economy, and the Antitrust Division with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to work together to ensure that these kinds of conspiracies are stopped." The press release also quoted FBI's Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, who said that "[w]hen companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States' economic system," and that "[t]he FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes."

160. Three of Furukawa's executives also pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy. The court sentenced two of the executives to 15 and 18 month prison sentences, to be served in the United States.

161. On January 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Yazaki Corporation and DENSO Corporation had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a total of \$548 million in criminal fines for their involvement in multiple price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracies in the sale of automotive parts to automobile manufacturers in the United States. According to the three-count felony charge against Yazaki, it engaged in three separate conspiracies: (i) to rig bids for and fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of automotive wire harnesses and related products; (ii) to rig bids for and fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of instrument panel clusters; and (iii) to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of fuel senders. According to the two-count felony charge against DENSO Corporation, it engaged in conspiracies to rig bids for and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of electronic control units and heater control panels.

162. In addition to Yazaki, executives from Yazaki (all Japanese nationals) – Tsuneaki Hanamura, Ryoji Kawai, Shigeru Ogawa, Kazuhiko Kashimoto and Hisamitsu Takada – pleaded guilty to their participation in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of automotive wire harnesses sold to certain automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. These Yazaki executives will each pay a \$20,000 criminal fine and serve prison time ranging from 15 months to two years. The two-year sentences would be the longest term of imprisonment imposed on a foreign national voluntarily submitting to U.S. jurisdiction for a Sherman Act antitrust violation. A number of additional companies have pleaded guilty to fixing the prices of other automotive parts, including automotive wire harnesses, instrument panel clusters, fuel senders and occupant safety systems. These companies include: Fujikura Ltd., GS Electech, Inc., TRW Deutschland Holding GmbH, Autoliv, Inc., and Nippon Seiki Co., Ltd.



163. On April 3, 2012, the DOJ announced that G.S. Electech Inc. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$2.75 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix the prices of speed sensor wire assemblies used on antilock brake systems installed in United States automobiles.

164. On April 23, 2012, the DOJ announced that Fujikura Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$220 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive wire harnesses and related products installed in United States automobiles.

165. On June 6, 2012, the DOJ announced that Autoliv Inc. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$14.5 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels installed in United States automobiles to automobile manufacturers.

166. On July 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that TRW Deutschland Holding GmbH had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$5.1 million criminal fine for its involvement in a conspiracy to fix prices of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels installed in automobiles sold in the United States.

167. On August 28, 2012, the DOJ announced that Nippon Seiki Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of instrument panel clusters installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

168. On October 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Tokai Rika Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$17.7 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of heater control panels installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere. Tokai Rika also agreed to plead guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the antitrust violation.

169. On July 16, 2013, the DOJ announced that Diamond Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of ignition coils installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

170. In the press release announcing the fine against Diamond Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd., Robert D. Foley III, Agent in Charge, FBI Detroit Division said “[t]hose who engage in price fixing, bid rigging and other fraudulent schemes harm the automotive industry by driving up costs for vehicle makers and buyers.”

171. On July 18, 2013, Defendant Panasonic Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$45.8 million criminal for its participation in three separate conspiracies to fix prices of automotive parts, one of which, the Switches conspiracy, is the subject of this complaint. The other price-fixing conspiracies involved steering angle sensors and automotive high intensity discharge (HID) ballasts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

172. On September 26, 2013, nine additional Japanese automotive suppliers agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy charges and pay more than \$740 million in criminal fines for their roles in rigging the prices of more than 30 different products:

- (a) Hitachi Automotive Systems Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$195 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of automotive parts including starter motors, alternators, air flow meters, valve timing control devices, fuel injection systems, electronic throttle bodies, ignition coils, inverters and motor generators sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

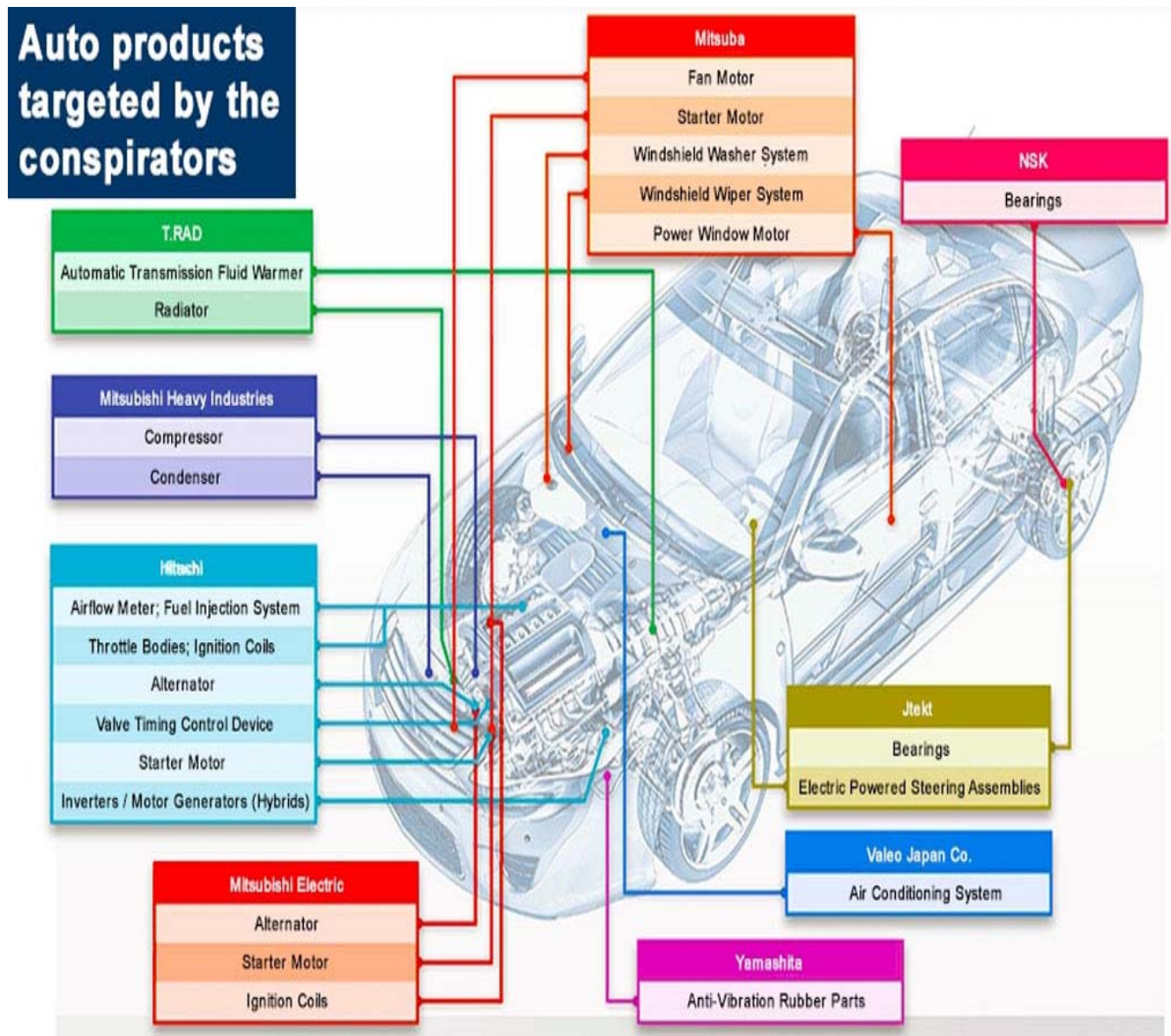
- (b) Defendant Mitsuba Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$135 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of certain automotive parts sold to automobile manufactures in the United States and elsewhere. Mitsuba also agreed to plead guilty to one count of obstruction of justice, because of the company's efforts to destroy evidence ordered by a high-level U.S.-based executive after learning of the U.S. investigation of collusion in the automotive parts industry;
- (c) Mitsubishi Electric Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$190 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of automotive parts, including starter motors, alternators and ignition coils, sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (d) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$14.5 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of compressors and condensers sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) T.RAD Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$13.75 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of radiators and automatic transmission fluid warmers (ATF warmers) sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

- (f) Valeo Japan Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$13.6 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate the supply of, rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of air conditioning systems sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (g) JTEKT Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$103.27 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate markets, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of bearings and electric powered steering assemblies sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (h) NSK Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$68.2 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate markets, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of bearings sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere; and
- (i) Yamashita Rubber Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$11 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, raise and maintain the prices of automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold in the United States and elsewhere to automobile manufacturers.

173. On the same day, September 26, 2013, United States Attorney General Eric Holder in the Antitrust Division presented the DOJ's most recent findings in the ongoing automotive parts investigation. He stated "[t]hese international price-fixing conspiracies affected more than \$5 billion in automobile parts sold to U.S. car manufacturers." Holder also described how the conspiracies worked: "[c]ompany executives met face to face in the United States and Japan – and talked on the phone – to reach collusive agreements to rig bids, fix prices and allocate the supply of

auto parts sold to U.S. car companies. In order to keep their illegal conduct secret, they used code names and met in remote locations. Then they followed up with each other regularly to make sure the collusive agreements were being adhered to.” Attorney General Holder explained that the automotive parts conspiracies “targeted U.S. manufacturing, U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers. As a result of these conspiracies, Americans paid more for their cars.”

174. The diagram below, which was prepared by the DOJ, illustrates the September 26, 2013 guilty pleas and the corresponding automotive parts to which the various manufacturers have admitted price-fixing.



175. On October 9, 2013, Takata Corporation announced that it had agreed to pay \$71.3 million to settle antitrust charges brought by the United States federal prosecutors for its role in a conspiracy to price-fix seatbelts.

176. On November 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$120 million criminal fine for its role in two separate conspiracies to fix the prices of automotive components involving anti-vibration rubber and driveshaft parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

177. On November 27, 2013, the DOJ announced that Stanley Electric Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1.44 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp ballasts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

178. On January 16, 2014, the DOJ announced that Koito Manufacturing Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$56.6 million criminal fine for its roles in separate price-fixing conspiracies involving automobile lighting fixtures and automotive high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp ballasts installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

179. On February 3, 2014, the DOJ announced that Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$6.86 million criminal fine for its role in a price-fixing conspiracy involving electronic throttle bodies sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

180. On February 13, 2014, the DOJ announced that Bridgestone Corporation had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$425 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive anti-vibration rubber parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

181. On April 23, 2014, the DOJ announced that Showa Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19.9 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids for pinion-assist type electric powered steering assemblies installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

182. To date, twenty-seven companies and thirty-five executives have been charged in the Antitrust Division's ongoing investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the automotive parts industry. The majority of these violators pleaded guilty to engaging in bid-rigging, price-

fixing, and market allocation during the same time period as the Defendants with multiple OEMs as their targets, including Toyota, Honda, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, German manufacturers and unnamed automobile manufacturers.

183. Each of the twenty-seven companies has agreed to plead guilty and altogether, they have agreed to pay approximately \$2.3 billion in criminal fines. Twenty-four of the thirty-five executives have been sentenced to serve time in U.S. prisons or have entered into plea agreements.

184. The U.S. government has said its automotive parts cartel criminal investigation will continue and other suppliers could be charged.

185. “This criminal activity has a significant impact on the automotive manufacturers in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe and has been occurring for at least a decade. The conduct had also affected commerce on a global scale in almost every market where automobiles are manufactured and/or sold,” said FBI’s Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena.

186. “When companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States’ economic system,” Arena also said. “The FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes.”

187. On February 15, 2013, Scott Hammond, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division, discussed the DOJ’s ongoing automotive parts investigation in a Thomson Reuters article. He said “[t]he investigation is broader than what we’ve announced so far . . . . [The investigation] is still very much ongoing, but it already appears to be the biggest criminal antitrust investigation that we’ve ever encountered. ***I say biggest with respect to the impact on U.S. businesses and consumers, and the number of companies and executives that are subject to the investigation.***” (emphasis added).



**F. Likely Existence of An Amnesty Applicant**

188. The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act (“ACPERA”) provides leniency benefits for a participant in a price-fixing conspiracy which voluntarily discloses its conduct to the Department of Justice. In most recent cases in which guilty pleas for price-fixing conduct have been obtained, there has been a cooperating party who has been accepted into the DOJ’s ACPERA program as an amnesty applicant. One of the leniency benefits for a conspirator which is accepted into the ACPERA program is that the applicant is not charged with a criminal offense and is not required to plead guilty to criminal charges.

189. In light of the guilty plea in this case, in related automotive parts antitrust cases and the DOJ’s ongoing investigation into the industry, it is reasonable for this Court to infer that there is an ACPERA “amnesty applicant” in this case.

**G. Damage to Plaintiffs and Other Automobile Dealers Caused by Defendants’ Illegal Activities**

190. Defendants’ conspiracy resulted in Defendants charging inflated prices to firms who directly purchased Switches from them and in those purchasers raising their prices to subsequent purchasers.

191. Having paid higher prices for components of the cars they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes and the Switches they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes, firms who sold such Switches and vehicles passed Defendants’ overcharges on to Plaintiffs and the Classes.

192. Plaintiffs and the Classes are entitled to the overcharges they paid for Switches.

193. Plaintiffs have standing and have suffered damage compensable by indirect purchaser laws and they and members of the classes they seek to represent have sustained significant damage and injury as a result of Defendants’ conspiracy.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

194. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, seeking equitable and injunctive relief on behalf of the following class (the “Nationwide Class”):

All automobile dealers that, during the Class Period, (a) indirectly purchased Switches manufactured or sold by a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary or affiliate thereof or any co-conspirator, or (b) purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured or sold by a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary, affiliate thereof or co-conspirator.

195. Plaintiffs also bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure seeking damages pursuant to the antitrust, unfair competition, unjust enrichment, and consumer protection laws of the states whose laws are set forth in the Second and Third Claims below, as well as the unjust enrichment laws of Missouri, Massachusetts, and Illinois. The states whose laws are set forth in the Second and Third Claims below, as well as Missouri, Massachusetts, and Illinois, are collectively referred to as the “Indirect Purchaser States.” These claims are brought by Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and entities in the Indirect Purchaser States listed in the Second, Third and Fourth Claims as follows (the “Damages Class”):

All automobile dealers, in the Indirect Purchaser States, that, during the Class Period (a) indirectly purchased Switches manufactured or sold by one of the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary or affiliate thereof, or any co-conspirator or (b) purchased vehicles containing Switches manufactured or sold by one of the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary, affiliate or co-conspirator thereof.

196. The Nationwide Class and the Damages Class are referred to herein as the “Classes.” Excluded from the Classes are the Defendants, their parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, any co-conspirators, federal governmental entities and instrumentalities of the federal government,

states and their subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, any judicial officer presiding over this matter, person who purchased Switches directly, and persons in the End-Payor Class, as defined in the End-payor complaint.

197. While Plaintiffs do not know the exact number of the members of the Classes, Plaintiffs believe there are (at least) thousands of members in each Class.

198. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Classes. This is particularly true given the nature of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' conspiracy, which was generally applicable to all the members of both Classes, thereby making appropriate relief with respect to the Classes as a whole. Such questions of law and fact common to the Classes include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a combination and conspiracy among themselves to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize the prices of Switches sold in the United States;
- (b) The identity of the participants of the alleged conspiracy;
- (c) The duration of the alleged conspiracy and the acts carried out by the Defendants and their co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy;
- (d) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated the Sherman Act, as alleged in the First Claim for Relief;
- (e) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated state antitrust and unfair competition law, and/or state consumer protection law, as alleged in the Second and Third Claims for Relief;
- (f) Whether the Defendants unjustly enriched themselves to the detriment of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes, thereby entitling Plaintiffs and the

members of the Classes to disgorgement of all benefits derived by the Defendants, as alleged in the Fourth Claim for Relief;

- (g) Whether the conduct of the Defendants and their co-conspirators, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the business or property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;
- (h) The effect of the alleged conspiracy on the prices of Switches sold in the United States during the Class Period;
- (i) Whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had any reason to know or suspect the conspiracy, or any means to discover the conspiracy;
- (j) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators fraudulently concealed the conspiracy's existence from Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;
- (k) The appropriate injunctive and related equitable relief for the Nationwide Class; and
- (l) The appropriate class-wide measure of damages for the Damages Class.

199. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Classes, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes. Plaintiffs and all members of the Classes are similarly affected by the Defendants' wrongful conduct in that they paid artificially inflated prices for Switches purchased indirectly from the Defendants and/or their co-conspirators.

200. Plaintiffs' claims arise out of the same common course of conduct giving rise to the claims of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of antitrust and class action litigation.

201. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.

202. Class action treatment is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, in that, among other things, such treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress for claims that might not be practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the management of this class action.

203. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Classes would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

**PLAINTIFFS AND THE CLASSES SUFFERED ANTITRUST INJURY**

204. The Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- (a) Price competition has been restrained or eliminated with respect to Switches;
- (b) The prices of Switches have been fixed, raised, maintained, or stabilized at artificially inflated levels;
- (c) Indirect purchasers of Switches have been deprived of free and open competition;
- (d) Defendants charged direct purchasers of their Switches inflated prices as a result of their conspiracy;

- (e) Having paid higher prices for components of the cars they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes and the Switches they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes, firms who sold Defendants' Switches and vehicles to Plaintiffs and the Classes passed Defendants' overcharges on to them;
- (f) Defendants' overcharges passed through each level of distribution as they traveled to Plaintiffs and the Classes;
- (g) Automobile dealers purchasing Switches and vehicles containing Switches have been deprived of free and open competition; and,
- (h) Automobile Dealers paid artificially inflated prices.

205. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes paid supracompetitive prices for Switches, as a result of the Defendants' conspiracy

206. An increase in the prices of Switches caused an increase in the price of vehicles during the Class Period.

207. The markets for Switches and vehicles are inextricably linked and intertwined because the market for Switches exists to serve the vehicle market. Without the vehicles, Switches have little to no value because they have no independent utility. Indeed, the demand for vehicles creates the demand for Switches. As stated in the 2010 Annual Report of Lear Corporation, an automobile parts supplier: "Our sales are driven by the number of vehicles produced by the automotive manufacturers, which is ultimately dependent on consumer fleet demand for automotive vehicles."

208. Switches are identifiable, discrete physical products that remain essentially unchanged when incorporated into a vehicle. As a result, Switches follow a traceable physical chain of distribution from the Defendants to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes, and any

costs attributable to Switches can be traced through the chain of distribution to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes.

209. Just as Switches can be physically traced through the supply chain, so can their price be traced to show that changes in the prices paid by direct purchasers of Switches affect prices paid by indirect purchasers of new motor vehicles containing Switches and Switches purchased for repair purposes.

210. Switches have their own part numbers, which permit them to be tracked.

211. Switches are pieces of equipment that are necessary to operate a vehicle.

212. The Switches subject to the Defendants' conspiracy and at issue in this lawsuit only have one use: to be inserted into vehicles. Whether Switches are sold by themselves or in vehicles, their purpose is to be inserted into vehicles.

213. The purpose of the conspiratorial conduct of the Defendants and their co-conspirators was to raise, fix, rig or stabilize the prices of Switches and, as a direct and foreseeable result, the price of new motor vehicles containing any of Switches and the prices of Switches purchased for repair purposes. Economists have developed techniques to isolate and understand the relationship between one "explanatory" variable and a "dependent" variable in those cases when changes in the dependent variable are explained by changes in a multitude of variables, even when all such variables may be changing simultaneously. That analysis - called regression analysis - is commonly used in the real world and in litigation to determine the impact of a price increase on one cost in a product (or service) that is an assemblage of costs. Thus, it is possible to isolate and identify only the impact of an increase in the prices of Switches on prices for new motor vehicles even though such products contain a number of other components whose prices may be changing over time. A regression model can explain how variation in the prices of Switches affects changes

in the price of new motor vehicles. In such models, the prices of Switches would be treated as independent or explanatory variables. The model can isolate how changes in the prices of Switches impact the price of new motor vehicles containing any of Switches while controlling for the impact of other price-determining factors.

214. The precise amount of the overcharge impacting the prices of new motor vehicles containing any of Switches can be measured and quantified. Commonly used and well-accepted economic models can be used to measure both the extent and the amount of the supracompetitive charge passed through the chain of distribution. Thus, the economic harm to Plaintiffs and class members can be quantified.

215. By reason of the violations of the antitrust law alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have sustained injury to their businesses or property, having paid higher prices for Switches than they would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' illegal contract, combination, or conspiracy, and, as a result, have suffered damages in an amount presently undetermined. This is an antitrust injury of the type that the antitrust laws were meant to punish and prevent.

#### **PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS ARE NOT BARRED BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

##### **A. The Statute of Limitations Did Not Begin to Run Because Plaintiffs Did Not And Could Not Discover Their Claims**

216. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations set forth above.

217. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had no knowledge of the combination or conspiracy alleged herein, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims set forth herein, until (at the earliest) July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced the Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.



218. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes are automobile dealers who purchased automobiles or purchased Switches to repair damaged or defective Switches.

219. They had no direct contact or interaction with the Defendants in this case and had no means from which they could have discovered the combination and conspiracy described in this Complaint before July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

220. No information in the public domain was available to the Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes prior to July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea, that revealed sufficient information to suggest that the Defendants were involved in a criminal conspiracy to price-fix and rig bids for Switches. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had no means of obtaining any facts or information concerning any aspect of the Defendants' dealings with OEMs or other direct purchasers, much less the fact that they and their co-conspirators had engaged in the combination and conspiracy alleged herein.

221. For these reasons, the statute of limitations as to Plaintiffs' and the Classes' claims did not begin to run, and has been tolled with respect to the claims that Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have alleged in this Complaint.

**B. Fraudulent Concealment Tolled the Statute of Limitations**

222. In the alternative, application of the doctrine of fraudulent concealment tolled the statute of limitations on the claims asserted herein by Plaintiffs and the Classes. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes did not discover, and could not discover through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the conspiracy alleged herein until July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

223. Before that time, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes were unaware of Defendants' unlawful conduct, and did not know before then that they were paying supracompetitive prices for Switches throughout the United States during the Class Period. No information, actual or constructive, was ever made available to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes that indicated to Plaintiffs that they were being injured by the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

224. The affirmative acts of the Defendants alleged herein, including acts in furtherance of the conspiracy, were wrongfully concealed and carried out in a manner that precluded detection.

225. Defendants had secret communications to collusive fix prices, rig bids, and allocate markets for Switches.

226. As alleged in the Informations filed against them, Defendants "employ[ed] measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and choosing places to meet to avoid detection."

227. Defendants also concealed their conspiracy by submitting bids to OEMs, to give the appearance of competition, despite having already determined among themselves who would win each bid.

228. Specifically, as Attorney General Holder explained in connection with the DOJ's globally coordinated investigation into price-fixing in the Automotive parts industry, "[i]n order to keep their illegal conduct secret, [Defendants] used code names and met in remote locations."

229. And, as stated in the Information filed against Defendant Panasonic Corporation, the Defendants and their co-conspirators employed "measures to keep their conduct secret, including using code names and choosing meeting places and times to avoid detection." The Information filed against Mitsuba Corporation also states that the Defendants and their co-

conspirators employed “measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and meeting at remote locations.”

230. Also, Mitsuba Corporation pleaded guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice in which it explicitly admitted to “altering, destroying, mutilating, concealing, covering up, falsifying and making false entries in documents and tangible objects with the intent to impede, obstruction, and influence” the DOJ’s investigation into the price-fixing of several automotive parts, including Windshield Washer Systems. According to Mitsuba Corporation’s plea agreement, in February 2010, three of Mitsuba’s senior executives learned that the offices of a co-conspirator had been searched by law enforcement authorities in connection with an investigation of possible antitrust violations, and they directed their subordinates and other employees to “conceal and destroy documents and electronic files” in the United States and Japan. Mitsuba Corporation’s plea agreement confirmed that such evidence was concealed and destroyed.

231. Additionally, Tokai Rika pleaded guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice in which it explicitly admitted that a Tokai Rika executive, acting on Tokai Rika’s behalf “knowingly and corruptly attempted to persuade and did persuade employees of [Tokai Rika], with intent to cause and induce them to alter, destroy, mutilate, and conceal objects with intent to impair the objects’ integrity and availability for use” in the DOJ’s investigation into possible federal criminal antitrust violations occurring in the automotive parts industry. According to Tokai Rika’s plea agreement, at the executive’s direction, employees deleted electronic data and destroyed paper documents likely to contain evidence of antitrust crimes and as a result “electronic data was deleted and paper documents were destroyed, including data and documents evidencing antitrust crimes.”

232. By its very nature, Defendants' and their co-conspirators' anticompetitive conspiracy was inherently self-concealing. Switches are not exempt from antitrust regulation, and thus, before July 18, 2013, Plaintiffs reasonably considered Switches industry to be a competitive industry. Accordingly, a reasonable person under the circumstances would not have been alerted to begin to investigate the legitimacy of the Defendants' Switches prices before July 18, 2013.

233. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes could not have discovered the alleged contract, conspiracy or combination at an earlier date by the exercise of reasonable diligence because of the deceptive practices and techniques of secrecy employed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators to avoid detection of, and fraudulently conceal, their contract, combination, or conspiracy.

234. Because the alleged conspiracy was both self-concealing and affirmatively concealed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes had no knowledge of the alleged conspiracy, or of any facts or information that would have caused a reasonably diligent person to investigate whether a conspiracy existed, until July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

235. As a result of the Panasonic Defendants' fraudulent concealment of their conspiracy, the running of any statute of limitations has been tolled with respect to the claims of Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes and did not begin to run until July 18, 2013.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act**  
**(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class)**

236. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

237. The Defendants and unnamed co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

238. The acts done by the Defendants as part of, and in furtherance of, their and their co-conspirators' contract, combination, or conspiracy were authorized, ordered, or done by their officers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management of the Defendants' affairs.

239. At least as early as January 2000, and continuing until at least the filing of this Complaint, the exact dates being unknown to Plaintiffs, the Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into a continuing agreement, understanding and conspiracy in restraint of trade to artificially fix, raise, stabilize, and control prices for Switches, thereby creating anticompetitive effects.

240. The anticompetitive acts were intentionally directed at the United States market for Switches and had a substantial and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce by raising and fixing prices for Switches throughout the United States.

241. The conspiratorial acts and combinations have caused unreasonable restraints in the market for Switches.

242. As a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated indirect purchasers in the Nationwide Class who purchased any of Switches have been harmed by being forced to pay inflated, supracompetitive prices for Switches.

243. In formulating and carrying out the alleged agreement, understanding and conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including but not limited to the acts, practices and course of conduct set forth herein.

244. The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- (a) Price competition in the market for Switches has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the United States;
- (b) Prices for Switches sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high, non-competitive levels throughout the United States; and
- (c) Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class who purchased Switches indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefits of free and open competition.

245. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class have been injured and will continue to be injured in their business and property by paying more for any of Switches purchased indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators than they would have paid and will pay in the absence of the conspiracy.

246. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will continue to be subject to the Defendants' price-fixing, bid-rigging, and market allocations, which will deprive Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class of the benefits of free competition, including competitively-priced Switches and vehicles containing Switches.

247. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will continue to lose funds due to overpayment for Switches and vehicles containing Switches because they are required to purchase vehicles and Switches to continue to operate their businesses.

248. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class continue to purchase vehicles and Switches on a regular basis.

249. Vehicles and Switches continue to be sold at inflated and supracompetitive prices.

250. The alleged contract, combination, or conspiracy is a *per se* violation of the federal antitrust laws.

251. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will be at the mercy of the Defendants' unlawful conduct until the Court orders an injunction.

252. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class are entitled to an injunction against the Defendants, preventing and restraining the violations alleged herein.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of State Antitrust Statutes**  
**(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)**

253. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

254. From as early as January 2000 until at least the filing of this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a continuing contract, combination or conspiracy with respect to the sale of Switches in unreasonable restraint of trade and commerce and in violation of the various state antitrust and other statutes set forth below.

255. The contract, combination, or conspiracy consisted of an agreement among the Defendants and their co-conspirators to fix, raise, inflate, stabilize, and/or maintain at artificially supracompetitive prices for Switches and to allocate customers for Switches in the United States.

256. In formulating and effectuating this conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators performed acts in furtherance of the combination and conspiracy, including:

- (a) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States during which they agreed to prices of Switches at certain levels, and otherwise to fix, increase, inflate, maintain, or stabilize effective prices paid by Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class with respect to Switches sold in the United States;

- (b) allocating customers and markets for Switches in the United States in furtherance of their agreements; and
- (c) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States to implement, adhere to, and police the unlawful agreements they reached.

257. The Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in the actions described above for the purpose of carrying out their unlawful agreements to fix, maintain, increase, or stabilize prices and to allocate customers with respect to Switches.

258. The Defendants' anticompetitive acts described above were knowing and willful and constitute violations or flagrant violations of the following state antitrust statutes.

259. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arizona Revised Statutes, §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Arizona; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arizona; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Arizona commerce.



- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

260. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the California Business and Professions Code, §§ 16700, *et seq.*

- (a) During the Class Period, the Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a continuing unlawful trust in restraint of the trade and commerce described above in violation of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code. The Defendants have acted in violation of Section 16720 to fix, raise, stabilize, and maintain prices of, and allocate markets for, Switches at supracompetitive levels.
- (b) The aforesaid violations of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code, consisted, without limitation, of a continuing unlawful trust and concert of action among the Defendants and their co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to fix, raise, maintain, and stabilize the prices of, and to allocate markets for, Switches.
- (c) For the purpose of forming and effectuating the unlawful trust, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have done those things which they combined and conspired to do, including but in no way limited to the acts,

practices and course of conduct set forth above and the following: (1) Fixing, raising, stabilizing, and pegging the prices of Switches; and (2) Allocating among themselves the production of Switches.

- (d) The combination and conspiracy alleged herein has had, inter alia, the following effects: (1) Price competition in the sale of Switches has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the State of California; (2) Prices for Switches sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, stabilized, and pegged at artificially high, non-competitive levels in the State of California and throughout the United States; and (3) those who purchased any of Switches directly or indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefit of free and open competition.
- (e) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property in that they paid more for Switches than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. As a result of the Defendants' violation of Section 16720 of the California Business and Professions Code, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek treble damages and their cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee, pursuant to Section 16750(a) of the California Business and Professions Code.

261. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the District of Columbia Code Annotated §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout the District of Columbia; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout the District of Columbia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in the District of Columbia and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in the District of Columbia were deprived of free and open competition, including in the District of Columbia; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in the District of Columbia and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in the District of Columbia paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches, including in the District of Columbia.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected District of Columbia commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

262. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches' price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Hawaii; (2) Switches' prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Hawaii; (3) Plaintiff and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiff and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Hawaii commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-4, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-4, *et seq.*

263. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Illinois Antitrust Act, 740 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches' price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated

throughout Illinois; (2) Switches' prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Illinois; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Illinois commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of 740 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under 740 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/1, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup>

264. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Iowa; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Iowa; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open

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<sup>2</sup> Dealership Plaintiffs recognize that their claims under the Illinois Antitrust Act were dismissed in the *Wire Harness* action. Dealership Plaintiffs assert this claim here, individually and collectively, to preserve it for appeal

competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Iowa commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

265. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Kansas; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Kansas; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Kansas commerce.

- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
  - (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.*
- Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

266. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Maine; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Maine; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Maine commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

267. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Michigan; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Michigan; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Michigan commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

268. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Minnesota Annotated Statutes §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*



- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Minnesota; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Minnesota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Minnesota commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*  
  
Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*

269. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 75-21-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Mississippi; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Mississippi; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those

who resided in Mississippi and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Mississippi were deprived of free and open competition, including in Mississippi; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Mississippi and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Mississippi paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches, including in Mississippi.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Mississippi commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Mississippi Code Ann. § 75-21-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Mississippi Code Ann. § 75-21-1, *et seq.*

270. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nebraska; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Nebraska; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of

free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Nebraska commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

271. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nevada; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Nevada; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Nevada and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Nevada, were deprived of free and open competition, including in Nevada; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Nevada and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Nevada, paid supracompetitive,

artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in Nevada.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Nevada commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

272. The Panasonic Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Hampshire; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Hampshire; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Hampshire commerce.

- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

273. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed or obtained in New Mexico and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.
- (b) Plaintiffs were not aware of Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy and were therefore unaware that they were being unfairly and illegally overcharged. There was a gross disparity of bargaining power between the parties with respect to the price charged by Defendants for Switches. Defendants had the sole power to set that price and Plaintiffs had no power to negotiate a lower price. Moreover, Plaintiffs lacked any meaningful choice in purchasing Switches because they were unaware of the unlawful overcharge and because they had to purchase Switches in order to be able to operate their vehicles.

Defendants' conduct with regard to sales of Switches, including their illegal conspiracy to secretly fix the price of Switches at supracompetitive levels and overcharge consumers, was substantively unconscionable because it was one-sided and unfairly benefited Defendants at the expense of Plaintiffs and the public. Defendants took grossly unfair advantage of Plaintiffs.

- (c) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted "unconscionable trade practices," in violation of N.M.S.A. Stat. § 57-12-3, in that such conduct, *inter alia*, resulted in a gross disparity between the value received by Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class and the prices paid by them for Switches as set forth in N.M.S.A., § 57-12-2E due to the inflated prices paid by Plaintiffs and Class members for vehicles and Switches.
- (d) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (e) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Mexico commerce.

- (f) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (g) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

274. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New York General Business Laws §§ 340, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in New York, were deprived of free and open competition, including in New York; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in New York, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches when they purchased, including in New York, Switches or vehicles containing Switches, or purchased vehicles and Switches that were otherwise of lower quality than they would have been absent the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' illegal

acts, or were unable to purchase products that they would have otherwise purchased absent the illegal conduct.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of the New York Donnelly Act, §§ 340, *et seq.* The conduct set forth above is a *per se* violation of the Act. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New York Gen. Bus. Law §§ 340, *et seq.*

275. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes §§ 75-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in North Carolina, were deprived of free and open competition, including in North Carolina; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased



Switches or vehicles in North Carolina, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches or vehicles containing Switches, including in North Carolina.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (c) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et. seq.*

276. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Dakota Century Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Dakota; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on North Dakota commerce.

- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

277. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Oregon; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Oregon; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Oregon commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

278. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the South Dakota Codified Laws §§ 37-1-3.1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Dakota; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in South Dakota and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in South Dakota, were deprived of free and open competition, including in South Dakota; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in South Dakota and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in South Dakota, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in South Dakota.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Dakota commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et*

*seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.*

279. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Tennessee; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Tennessee; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Tennessee and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Tennessee, were deprived of free and open competition, including in Tennessee; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Tennessee and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in Tennessee, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in Tennessee.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Tennessee commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

280. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Utah; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Utah; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Utah commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

281. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Vermont commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.*

282. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout West Virginia; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels

throughout West Virginia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in West Virginia and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in West Virginia, were deprived of free and open competition, including in West Virginia; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in West Virginia and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in West Virginia, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in West Virginia.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on West Virginia commerce.
  - (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
  - (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of West Virginia §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*
- Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under West Virginia §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

283. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Wisconsin Statutes §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Wisconsin; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout

Wisconsin; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.

- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Wisconsin commerce.
  - (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
  - (d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.*
- Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

284. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class in each of the above states have been injured in their business and property by reason of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' unlawful combination, contract, conspiracy and agreement. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have paid more for Switches than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. This injury is of the type the antitrust laws of the above states were designed to prevent and flows from that which makes the Defendants' conduct unlawful.

285. In addition, the Defendants have profited significantly from the aforesaid conspiracy. The Defendants' profits derived from their anticompetitive conduct come at the expense and detriment of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class.



286. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class in each of the above jurisdictions seek damages (including statutory damages where applicable), to be trebled or otherwise increased as permitted by a particular jurisdiction's antitrust law, and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent permitted by the above state laws.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Violation of State Consumer Protection Statutes**  
**(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)**

287. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceeding paragraphs of this complaint.

288. The Defendants engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of the state consumer protection and unfair competition statutes listed below.

289. The Defendants have knowingly entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-101.

- (a) The Defendants knowingly agreed to, and did in fact act in, restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed, or obtained in Arkansas and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.
- (b) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted "unconscionable" and "deceptive" acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10).
- (c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches' price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout

Arkansas; (2) Switches' prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arkansas; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.

- (d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Arkansas commerce and consumers.
- (e) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (f) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10) and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

290. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

- (a) During the Class Period, the Defendants committed and continue to commit acts of unfair competition, as defined by Sections 17200, *et seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code, by engaging in the acts and practices specified above.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected California commerce and consumers.

- (c) This claim is instituted pursuant to Sections 17203 and 17204 of the California Business and Professions Code, to obtain restitution from the Defendants for acts, as alleged herein, that violated Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code, commonly known as the Unfair Competition Law.
- (d) The Defendants' conduct as alleged herein violated Section 17200. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices and non-disclosures of the Defendants, as alleged herein, constituted a common, continuous, and continuing course of conduct of unfair competition by means of unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code, Section 17200, *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) the violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, as set forth above; (2) the violations of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, set forth above;
- (e) The Defendants' acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures, as described above, whether or not in violation of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, and whether or not concerted or independent acts, are otherwise unfair, unconscionable, unlawful or fraudulent;
- (f) The Defendants' acts or practices are unfair to purchasers of Switches (or vehicles containing them) in the State of California within the meaning of Section 17200, California Business and Professions Code; and

- (g) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout California; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout California; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in California and/ or purchased Switches or vehicles in California, were deprived of free and open competition, including in California; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in California and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in California, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in California.
- (h) The Defendants' acts and practices are fraudulent or deceptive within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.
- (i) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class are entitled to full restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices.
- (j) The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing and there is no indication that the Defendants will not continue such activity into the future.
- (k) As alleged in this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been unjustly enriched as a result of their wrongful conduct and by the Defendants' unfair competition. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are accordingly entitled to equitable relief including restitution and/or

disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business practices, pursuant to the California Business and Professions Code, Sections 17203 and 17204.

291. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. §§ 501.201, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Florida; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Florida; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Florida commerce and purchasers of Switches and vehicles in Florida.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Florida Stat. § 501.201, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

292. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed or obtained in New Mexico and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.
- (b) Plaintiffs were not aware of the Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy and were therefore unaware that they were being unfairly and illegally overcharged. There was a gross disparity of bargaining power between the parties with respect to the price charged by the Defendants for Switches. Defendants had the sole power to set that price and Plaintiffs had no power to negotiate a lower price. Moreover, Plaintiffs lacked any meaningful choice in purchasing Switches because they were unaware of the unlawful overcharge and because they had to purchase Switches in order to be able to operate their vehicles. The Defendants' conduct with regard to sales of Switches, including their illegal conspiracy to secretly fix the price of Switches at supracompetitive levels and overcharge consumers, was substantively unconscionable because it was one-sided and unfairly benefited the Defendants at the expense of Plaintiffs and the public. The Defendants took grossly unfair advantage of Plaintiffs.

- (c) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted “unconscionable trade practices,” in violation of N.M.S.A. Stat. § 57-12-3, in that such conduct, *inter alia*, resulted in a gross disparity between the value received by Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class and the prices paid by them for Switches as set forth in N.M.S.A., § 57-12-2E, due to the inflated prices paid by Plaintiffs and Class members for vehicles and Switches.
- (d) The Defendants’ unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.
- (e) During the Class Period, the Defendants’ illegal conduct substantially affected New Mexico commerce and consumers.
- (f) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.
- (g) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

293. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed or obtained in New York and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.
- (b) The Defendants deceptively led purchasers, such as Plaintiffs and Class members, to believe that the Switches they had purchased as replacements and inside vehicles had been sold at legal competitive prices, when they had in fact been sold at collusively obtained inflated prices, that were passed on to them.
- (c) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, which resulted in consumer injury and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of New York State in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.
- (d) Because of the Defendants' unlawful trade practices in the State of New York, New York purchasers who indirectly purchased Switches were misled to believe that they were paying a fair price for Switches or the price increases for Switches were for valid business reasons.
- (e) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at



artificially high levels throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in and/or made purchases or vehicles or Switches in New York, were deprived of free and open competition, including in New York, and were subjected to Defendants' deceptive practices in New York; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in and/or made purchases of vehicles or Switches in New York, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in New York and were subjected to Defendants' deceptive practices in New York.

- (f) The Defendants knew that their unlawful trade practices with respect to pricing Switches would have an impact on all purchasers in New York and not just the Defendants' direct customers.
- (g) The Defendants knew that their unlawful trade practices with respect to pricing Switches would have a broad impact, causing class members who indirectly purchased Switches to be injured by paying more for Switches than they would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful trade acts and practices.
- (h) During the Class Period, the Defendants marketed, sold, or distributed Switches in New York and their illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce and New York purchasers.
- (i) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Switches in New York.

- (j) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available pursuant to N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349 (h).

294. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed or obtained in North Carolina and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.
- (b) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of North Carolina law, which resulted in consumer injury and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of North Carolina consumers in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.
- (c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Switches or vehicles in North Carolina, were deprived of free and open competition, including in North Carolina; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or

purchased Switches or vehicles in North Carolina, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches, including in North Carolina.

- (d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce and purchasers of Switches and vehicles. The Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy could not have succeeded absent deceptive conduct by the Defendants to cover up their illegal acts. Secrecy was integral to the formation, implementation and maintenance of the Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy. The Defendants committed inherently deceptive and self-concealing actions, of which Plaintiffs could not possibly have been aware. Moreover, the Defendants deceptively concealed their unlawful activities by conducting meetings and conversations in secret.
- (e) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Switches in North Carolina.
- (f) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek actual damages for their injuries caused by these violations in an amount to be determined at trial and are threatened with further injury. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, et seq., and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

295. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Carolina; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches and vehicles containing Switches.
- (b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Carolina commerce.
- (c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.
- (d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

296. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*

- (a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce in a market that includes Vermont by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Switches were sold, distributed, or obtained in Vermont.
- (b) The Defendants deliberately failed to disclose material facts to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class concerning their unlawful activities and artificially inflated prices for Switches. The Defendants owed a duty to disclose such facts. The Defendants misrepresented to all purchasers during the Class Period that their Switches prices were competitive and fair.
- (c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Switches price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Switches prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Switches.
- (d) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violations of law, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class suffered an ascertainable loss of money or property as a result of the Defendants' use or employment of unconscionable and deceptive commercial practices as set forth above. That loss was caused by the Defendants' willful and deceptive conduct, as described herein.

- (e) The Defendants' deception, including their affirmative misrepresentations and omissions concerning the prices of Switches, likely misled all purchasers acting reasonably under the circumstances to believe that they were purchasing Switches at prices born by a free and fair market. The Defendants' misleading conduct and unconscionable activities constitutes unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Unjust Enrichment**

**(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)**

297. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

298. Plaintiffs bring this claim under the laws of all states listed in the Second and Third Claims, *supra*. Plaintiffs also bring this claim under the laws of Missouri, Massachusetts, and Illinois on behalf of the Plaintiffs who have their primary places of business in those three states and the class members in those three states.

299. As a result of their unlawful conduct described above, the Defendants have been, and will continue to be, unjustly enriched. The Defendants have been unjustly enriched by the receipt of, at a minimum, unlawfully inflated prices and unlawful profits on sales of Switches.

300. The Defendants have benefited from their unlawful acts and it would be inequitable for the Defendants to be permitted to retain any of the ill-gotten gains resulting from the overpayments made by Plaintiffs or the members of the Damages Class for Switches.

301. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are entitled to the amount of Defendants' ill-gotten gains resulting from their unlawful, unjust, and inequitable conduct. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are entitled to the establishment of a constructive

trust consisting of all ill-gotten gains from which Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class may make claims on a *pro rata* basis.

302. Pursuit of any remedies against the firms from whom Plaintiffs and the Class members purchased Switches and vehicles containing Switches subject to the Defendants' conspiracy would have been futile, given that those firms did not take part in the Defendants' conspiracy.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that:

A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and direct that reasonable notice of this action, as provided by Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, be given to each and every member of the Classes;

B. That the unlawful conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein be adjudged and decreed:

(a) An unreasonable restraint of trade or commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

(b) A *per se* violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

(c) An unlawful combination, trust, agreement, understanding and/or concert of action in violation of the state antitrust and unfair competition and consumer protection laws as set forth herein; and

(d) Acts of unjust enrichment by the Defendants as set forth herein.

C. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed under such laws, and that a joint and several judgment in favor of

Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be entered against the Defendants in an amount to be trebled to the extent such laws permit;

D. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed by such laws, in the form of restitution and/or disgorgement of profits unlawfully gained from them;

E. The Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and other officers, directors, partners, agents and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf or in concert with them, be permanently enjoined and restrained from in any manner continuing, maintaining or renewing the conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein, or from entering into any other contract, conspiracy, or combination having a similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program, or device having a similar purpose or effect;

F. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be awarded restitution, including disgorgement of profits the Defendants obtained as a result of their acts of unfair competition and acts of unjust enrichment;

G. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes be awarded pre- and post- judgment interest as provided by law, and that such interest be awarded at the highest legal rate from and after the date of service of this Complaint;

H. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes recover their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by law; and

I. Plaintiffs and members of the Classes have such other and further relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper.



**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury, pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, of all issues so triable.

DATED: June 20, 2014

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Gerard V. Mantese

Gerard V. Mantese  
(Michigan Bar No. P34424)  
David Hansma  
(Michigan Bar No. P71056)  
Brendan Frey  
(Michigan Bar No. P70893)  
Mantese Honigman Rossman  
and Williamson, P.C.  
1361 E. Big Beaver Road  
Troy, Michigan 48083  
Telephone: (248) 457-9200  
gmantese@manteselaw.com  
dhansma@manteselaw.com  
bfrey@manteselaw.com

Don Barrett  
Brian Herrington  
David McMullan  
Barrett Law Group, P.A.  
P.O. Box 927  
404 Court Square  
Lexington, MS 39095  
Telephone: (662) 834-2488  
dbarrett@barrettlawgroup.com  
bherrington@barrettlawgroup.com  
dmcmullan@barrettlawgroup.com

Jonathan W. Cuneo  
Joel Davidow  
Daniel Cohen  
Victoria Romanenko  
Yifei Li  
Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP  
507 C Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002  
Telephone: (202) 789-3960  
jonc@cuneolaw.com  
joel@cuneolaw.com  
danielc@cuneolaw.com  
vicky@cuneolaw.com  
evelyn@cuneolaw.com

Shawn M. Raiter  
Paul A. Sand  
Larson • King, LLP  
2800 Wells Fargo Place

Michael J. Flannery  
Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP  
300 North Tucker  
Suite 801

30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Telephone: (651) 312-6500  
sraiter@larsonking.com  
psand@larsonking.com

Phillip Duncan  
Richard Quintus  
Duncan Firm, P.A.  
900 S. Shackleford, Suite 725  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
Telephone: (501) 228-7600  
phillip@duncanfirm.com  
richard@duncanfirm.com

Dewitt Lovelace  
Valerie Lauro Nettles  
Lovelace & Associates, P.A.  
Suite 200  
12870 US Hwy 98 West  
Miramar Beach, FL 32550  
Telephone: (850) 837-6020  
dml@lovelacelaw.com  
alex@lovelacelaw.com

Gregory Johnson  
G. Johnson Law, PLLC  
6688 145th Street West,  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Telephone: (952) 930-2485  
greg@gjohnsonlegal.com

*Attorneys for Dealership Plaintiffs*

St. Louis, MO 63101  
Telephone: (314) 226-1015  
mflannery@cuneolaw.com

Thomas P. Thrash  
Marcus Bozeman  
Thrash Law Firm, P.A.  
1101 Garland Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Telephone: (501) 374-1058  
tomthrash@sbcglobal.net  
bozemanmarcus@sbcglobal.net

Charles Barrett  
Charles Barrett, P.C.  
6518 Highway 100  
Suite 210  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
Telephone: (615) 515-3393  
charles@cfbfirm.com